

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth hereinbelow.

1 – 19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A ~~track and lock~~ system comprising:

- (a) a track having a box-shaped cross-section with a longitudinal slot on one side of the box; ~~[[and]]~~
- (b) a one-piece lock comprising:
  - (1) a body having a wider axis ~~and~~ a narrower axis;
  - (2) a finger-turnable handle; and
  - (3) a neck formed integrally with the body at one end and formed integrally with the handle at the other end;
  - (4) wherein one end of the neck extends from the body in a direction generally perpendicular to a plane containing the wider axis and the narrower axis of the body;
  - (5) wherein the neck is sized to extend through the slot;
  - (6) wherein the body is sized to fit loosely within the interior of the track when the wider axis is parallel to the track and to fit within the interior of the track with opposing ends of the body frictionally engaged with opposing side walls of the track when the narrower axis is parallel to the track, ~~which frictional engagement holds the lock in a substantially fixed longitudinal position along the track;~~ and
  - (7) wherein the narrower axis of the body is no wider than the ~~slot-~~ slot; and
- (c) a string of lights arranged along the track,
- (d) wherein the body of the lock is positioned within the track with its opposing ends frictionally engaged with opposing side walls of the track, which frictional engagement holds the lock in a substantially fixed longitudinal position along the track;
- (e) wherein an interior portion of the track and a surface of the frictionally engaged body opposite the neck together define a circumscribed passage within the track;

(f) wherein a segment of a wire of the string of lights passes through the circumscribed passage and is retained within the track by the body of the lock;  
and

(g) wherein a light of the string is outside the track so that the wire passes through the slot at a location between the segment of wire that passes through the circumscribed passage and the light.

21. **(cancelled)**

22. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 20 wherein the track is secured to a house.

23. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 20 wherein the handle is elongated and parallel to the narrower axis of the body.

24. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 20 wherein the handle is elongated and parallel to the wider axis of the body.

25. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 20 wherein the body has two opposite sides not parallel to each other, which sides are generally parallel to the neck.

26. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 20 wherein, measured along the intersection of the body and a plane passing through the neck, a first side of the body adjacent to the neck is wider than an opposing side of the body.

27. **(previously presented)** The system of claim 20 wherein the body comprises two rounded edges at opposite corners of a generally box-shaped body, which edges are parallel to the neck.

28 – 30. **(cancelled)**

31. **(currently amended)** The system of claim 20 wherein:

(a) the handle is elongated and the neck is formed integrally with the handle at a point near one end of the handle;

(b) the neck defines and surrounds a rotation axis of the lock, which axis is generally perpendicular to the plane containing the wider axis and the narrower axis of the body; and

- (c) the elongated handle is arranged substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis and extends substantially continuously across the axis.
- 32. **(cancelled)**
- 33. **(cancelled)**
- 34. **(new)** A method comprising:
  - (a) arranging a string of lights along a track, which track has a box-shaped cross-section with a longitudinal slot on one side of the box, with a segment of a wire of the string of lights inside the track and with a light of the string of lights outside the track;
  - (b) inserting a portion of a one-piece lock through the slot into the track at a location along the track where the segment of wire is inside the track, which one-piece lock comprises:
    - (1) a body that has a wider axis and a narrower axis;
    - (2) a finger-turnable handle; and
    - (3) a neck formed integrally with the body at one end and formed integrally with the handle at the other end;
    - (4) wherein one end of the neck extends from the body in a direction generally perpendicular to a plane containing the wider axis and the narrower axis of the body;
    - (5) wherein the neck is sized to extend through the slot;
    - (6) wherein the body is sized to fit loosely within the interior of the track when the wider axis is parallel to the track and to fit within the interior of the track with opposing ends of the body frictionally engaged with opposing side walls of the track when the narrower axis is parallel to the track; and
    - (7) wherein the narrower axis of the body is no wider than the slot; and
  - (c) thereafter, turning the lock to frictionally engage the body within the track (i) so as to hold the lock in a substantially fixed longitudinal position along the track, thereby forming a circumscribed passage defined by an interior portion of the track and a surface of the frictionally engaged body opposite the neck, (ii) so that the segment of wire is retained within the track and passes through

the circumscribed passage, and (iii) so that the wire passes through the slot at a location between the wire segment passing through the circumscribed passage and the light.

35. **(new)** The method of claim 34 further comprising securing the track to a house.
36. **(new)** The method of claim 34 wherein the handle is elongated and parallel to the narrower axis of the body.
37. **(new)** The method of claim 34 wherein the handle is elongated and parallel to the wider axis of the body.
38. **(new)** The method of claim 34 wherein the body has two opposite sides not parallel to each other, which sides are generally parallel to the neck.
39. **(new)** The method of claim 34 wherein, measured along the intersection of the body and a plane passing through the neck, a first side of the body adjacent to the neck is wider than an opposing side of the body.
40. **(new)** The method of claim 34 wherein the body comprises two rounded edges at opposite corners of a generally box-shaped body, which edges are parallel to the neck.
41. **(new)** The method of claim 34 wherein:
  - (a) the handle is elongated and the neck is formed integrally with the handle at a point near one end of the handle;
  - (b) the neck defines and surrounds a rotation axis of the lock, which axis is generally perpendicular to the plane containing the wider axis and the narrower axis of the body; and
  - (c) the elongated handle is arranged substantially perpendicular to the rotation axis and extends substantially continuously across the axis.